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Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly: examination of the single biennial report of the Executive Director on the progress achieved by Governments in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008 set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session

First biennial report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to countering the world drug problem together

Report of the Executive Director

Addendum

Colombia: comments on the first biennial report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

Paragraph 89

1. All States should have a national demand reduction strategy incorporated into a national drug strategy that is balanced between demand and supply issues, in order to meet the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008.

Paragraph 101

2. It is important that reference be made not only to young people but also to prisoners, sex workers, street children, the homeless, ethnic minorities and juvenile offenders who are among those groups considered to be at increased risk of developing drug problems.

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Paragraph 109

3. All States should consider consulting the beneficiaries of demand reduction work, and taking their views into account, when reorienting demand reduction programmes to target vulnerable population groups.

Paragraph 147

4. The national drug control plan of Colombia for 1998-2002 provides for a comprehensive and integrated strategy to reduce illicit drug crops. Under that strategy, alternative development involves a far-reaching policy designed to reintegrate marginalized population groups into the legal economy, thus preventing the expansion of illicit cultivation and, at the same time, eliminating the intensive cultivation of crops through a controlled and scientifically based process of eradication. The Office of the National Alternative Development Plan (PLANTE) is currently implementing projects in the areas of the most intensive cultivation of drug crops. With regard to coca, PLANTE is carrying out its programme in the departments of Caqueta, Guaviare, Meta and Putumayo and, in the case of opium poppy, in Cauca, Cesar, Huila, Nariño and Tolima.

Paragraph 175

5. Colombia has simplified and strengthened its extradition procedures in accordance with the provisions of article 81 of Decree 266 of February 2000, whereby a shorter time limit was introduced for the Government of Colombia to decide on extradition requests. The Code of Criminal Procedure established a period of 15 days for the Government to decide on such requests, whereas article 81 reduced that period to 10 days. On the other hand, active extraditions, or extraditions requested of other States by Colombia, are not at the desired level of reciprocity.

Paragraph 179

6. In Colombia, the Office of the Attorney-General and the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs serve as the central authorities responsible for promoting cooperation in matters of mutual legal assistance. The Office of the Attorney-General, for example, has forged closer links with the judicial attachés of a number of States, including Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

Paragraph 188

7. New legislation has been passed in Colombia to reform the programme for the protection of witnesses, victims and other persons involved in criminal proceedings. Measures have also been taken to strengthen the protection of officials and official premises in general.